the spillage of motor spirit and subsequently fire. The fire fighting operations were immediately started and the fire was extinguished at 12.45 hrs. The railway traffic remained suspended for about 6 hrs.

The high level inquiry committee, consisting of the members from Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), in its report brought out that the failure of pipe might have been caused by onjoint action of presence of V notch on seam, corrosion patches on the longitudinal weld seam, adjoining heat affect zone and momentary surge in the pipeline.

The important recommendations of the committee have been complied with by IOCL.

(c) to (e) The prevent external corrosion, the complete pipeline has been coated with coal-tar enamel coating. As a secondary protection measure against corrosion, the pipeline is provided with impressed current cathodic protection (CP) system. For corrosion control measures, the pipeline is cleaned through pigging operation periodically. Regular patrolling is also carried out by the line patrolmen along the route of the pipeline. IOCL have followed these practices.

Committees on dealers' problems

1078. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had ordered to constitute different Committees to solve all the points of dealers resentment including dealers commission, maintenance of quality, quantity in the trade;

(b) the number of meetings which have been attended by the directors, marketing of all PSUs and how many have been avoided;

(c) what action is being taken by Government against these officers for insulting these Committees; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay in taking decisions by these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH

GANGWAR): (a) In order to examine various issues raised by the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders, Government has constituted the under mentioned 3 Committees:—

(i) Committee to examine issues relating to Quality checks etc.,

(ii) Committee to examine the issue of Temperature Variation Allowance and Stock Losses.

(iii) Committee to examine issues relating to Dealers Commission etc.

(b) Information about the meetings of the three Committees held and attended by the Directors of Marketing of Oil PSUs is given below:—

No. of meeting	No. of meetings attended by Directors of Marketing			
held	IOC	BPCL	HPCL	IBP
14	5	8	13	8

(c) Absence of a member from the meeting of the Committee for valid reasons cannot be considered as insult to the Committee.

(d) The Committees on Quality check and Temperature Variation Allowance and Stock Losses have submitted their Report to the Government. The Report of the Committee on Dealers Commissions is awaited.

Indigenous production of Crude Oil

†1079. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various efforts have been made since March, 1998-99 for raising the crude oil production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and additional crude oil produced during the period from March, 1998 to the end of March, 2001 as a result of such efforts; and

(c) what has been the indigenous production of crude oil in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.